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Ways to Save Money on Energy Costs

Cost = Free

YEAR-ROUND

- Turn down the water heater's regulator 5-10 degrees.
- Wash your clothes in cold water.
- When drying clothes, put a dry towel in your dryer. It will cut the drying time for wet clothes.
- Clean the coils on your refrigerator every three months. Dirt buildup makes the refrigerator work harder.

WINTER

- When you're not home, keep the thermostat about 5 degrees lower than normal. Every degree you lower the thermostat saves about 3 percent on your heating bill.
- Keep the windows and doors closed.
- Close the drapes at night to trap heat and open them when it is sunny.
- Use ventilating fans sparingly. In one hour they can suck up a houseful of heat.
- Dust your radiators frequently. Dust and grime impede the flow of heat.
- Dress warmly. Pants are at least a degree warmer than skirts; a light, long-sleeved sweater provides the equivalent of almost 2 degrees in added warmth; a heavy long-sleeved sweater adds about 3.7 degrees.

SUMMER

- Move lamps, television sets or other heat sources away from the air conditioner's thermostat. They may cause the air conditioner to run longer than it should.

- Move furniture or other obstacles away from ducts or fans.
- Keep the drapes and windows closed during the day to keep out heat. Open them at night when it is cooler.
- Keep interior doors closed. Shutting the vents in rooms you aren't using redirects cool air to the rest of the house.
- Raise the thermostat when you are not at home, so the air conditioning won't cool an empty house.

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